

Application Serial Number 10/730,473
Response to the Office Action Dated September 29, 2004
Mailed October 29, 2004

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 10-18 are subject to an election of species requirement and are withdrawn. Claims 19-27 are added. Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

Election of Species

The Patent Office asserted that the Application contained claims drawn to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Group I – FIGS. 1 and 2;
Group II – FIGS. 3 and 4;
Group III – FIGS. 5 and 6;

and required Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Patent Office indicated that claims 1 and 9 are generic.

Applicant elects the species of Group I – FIGS. 1 and 2, without traverse. Claims 1-9 read on the elected species. New claims 19-27 are added. New claims 19-27 also read on the elected species.

CONCLUSION

The application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance of all claims. Accordingly, notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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